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Dear Producers and Data Users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

Mark Harris
Mark Harris
Director

Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary United States All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in May, at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is unchanged from April. Producers received higher commodity prices for hogs, strawberries, hay, and potatoes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, broccoli, asparagus, and dairy. The overall index is also affected by the 3-year average seasonal change in

the mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cantaloupes, sweet corn, grapes, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, dairy, calves, and asparagus.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 7 points (5.4 percent) from May 2004.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary May 2005 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		May 2004 ¹	April 2005 ¹	May 15, 2005	May 2004 ¹	April 2005 ¹	May 15, 2005	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
<i>Dollars</i>					<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat, All	Bushel	3.73	3.18	3.05	3.82	3.35	3.28	32	10.30
Corn	Bushel	2.80	1.92	1.90	2.87	2.00	1.92	28	6.91
Oats	Bushel	³	1.91	1.80	1.70	1.65	1.58	39	4.10
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	4.71	2.99	3.00	4.82	2.96	2.86	25	11.30
Soybeans	Bushel	9.72	5.97	6.05	9.56	6.03	6.09	36	16.70
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	48.00	48.00	48.00	101.00	96.90	107.00		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	48.00	48.00	48.00	109.00	103.00	116.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	44.00	47.00	46.00	78.30	75.40	76.10		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt	17.30	23.80	23.00	19.90	28.80	25.50	49	52.40
Hogs	Cwt	56.90	52.40	57.30	56.60	51.20	55.40	50	111.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	57.20	52.60	57.60	57.30	51.50	56.10		
Sows	Cwt	44.20	40.40	40.40	43.50	41.70	41.70		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	91.20	97.40	94.30	88.50	94.00	92.90	52	179.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	92.40	98.50	95.30	92.60	98.30	96.90		
Cows	Cwt	53.80	60.60	63.60	52.50	57.10	58.70		
Calves	Cwt	126.00	146.00	150.00	121.00	140.00	141.00	58	243.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.20	39.00		36.00	44.40			87.70
Lambs	Cwt	112.00	121.00		103.00	114.00			217.00

¹ Entire month average except hay. ² Parity price based on data for May 2005. ³ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices May 31, 2005

Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income

Production, Disposition, and Income: Cattle and Calves, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2004

Inventory, Supply, and Disposition ¹					Production and Income				
Item	Nebraska		United States		Item	Nebraska		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004	2003	2004
<i>Thousand Head</i>									
Inventory,					Production ⁴				
January 1	6,200.0	6,250.0	96,100.0	94,888.0	Million lbs	4,401.4	4,392.3	42,243.7	41,501.3
Calf Crop	1,770.0	1,800.0	37,902.8	37,625.4	Marketings ⁵				
Inshipments	4,090.0	4,000.0	22,405.1	21,396.7	Million lbs	7,035.8	6,972.6	56,758.3	53,764.9
Marketings ²					Price per cwt.				
Cattle	5,568.0	5,453.0	47,686.1	44,808.2	Cattle \$	83.80	88.70	79.70	85.90
Calves	85.0	85.0	9,612.8	9,065.3	Calves \$	110.00	129.00	102.00	119.00
Farm slaughter ³	2.0	2.0	191.3	185.4	Value of Production				
Deaths					Million \$	3,379.8	3,605.5	32,112.9	34,887.8
Cattle	85.0	85.0	1,710.1	1,710.8	Cash Receipts ⁶				
Calves	70.0	75.0	2,319.6	2,292.4	Million \$	5,904.0	6,196.9	45,092.3	47,295.6
Inventory,					Gross Income ⁷				
End of Year	6,250.0	6,350.0	94,888.0	95,848.0	Million \$	5,914.4	6,208.3	45,476.6	47,723.4

Production, Disposition, and Income: Hogs and Pigs, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2004

Inventory, Supply, and Disposition ¹					Production and Income				
Item	Nebraska		United States		Item	Nebraska		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004	2003	2004
<i>Thousand Head</i>									
Inventory, December 1					Production ⁴				
Previous Year	3,000.0	2,900.0	59,554.2	60,443.7	Million lbs	1,428.5	1,374.0	26,260.1	26,678.2
Pig Crop (Dec - Nov)	6,515.0	6,204.0	101,490.3	102,457.5	Marketings ⁵				
Inshipments	900.0	1,000.0	31,543.4	32,917.0	Million lbs	1,460.5	1,421.5	27,173.7	27,755.3
Marketings ²	7,264.0	7,008.0	124,382.8	127,598.5	Average Price				
Farm slaughter ³	1.0	1.0	116.0	113.7	per cwt. \$	39.30	50.80	37.20	49.30
Deaths	250.0	245.0	7,645.5	7,461.7	Value of Production				
Inventory					Million \$ ⁸	584.2	716.6	9,663.0	13,071.7
December 1	2,900.0	2,850.0	60,443.7	60,644.5	Cash Receipts ^{6,8}				
					Million \$	613.3	762.0	10,618.0	14,348.3
					Gross Income ⁷				
					Million \$	614.3	763.3	10,645.8	14,384.4

Production, Disposition, and Income: Sheep and Lambs, Nebraska and United States, 2003-2004

Inventory, Supply, and Disposition ¹					Production and Income				
Item	Nebraska		United States		Item	Nebraska		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004		2003	2004	2003	2004
<i>Thousand Head</i>									
Inventory					Production ⁴				
January 1 ⁹	97.0	102.0	6,321.0	6,105.0	Million lbs	10.3	9.7	470.1	464.5
Lamb Crop	88.0	84.0	4,140.0	4,096.0	Marketings ⁵				
Inshipments	52.0	47.0	1,558.1	1,494.6	Million lbs	13.7	14.1	609.7	572.4
Marketings ²					Price per cwt.				
Sheep	21.0	27.0	827.9	695.0	Sheep \$	33.20	37.60	34.90	38.80
Lambs	98.6	94.6	4,387.2	4,200.5	Lambs \$	90.60	98.30	94.40	101.00
Farm slaughter ³	0.4	0.4	66.8	64.8	Value of Production				
Deaths					Million \$	8.1	8.5	391.8	412.3
Sheep	4.0	4.0	238.4	215.3	Cash Receipts ⁶				
Lambs	11.0	10.0	393.8	385.0	Million \$	10.7	11.5	507.9	521.0
Inventory					Gross Income ⁷				
End of Year ⁹	102.0	97.0	6,105.0	6,135.0	Million \$	10.8	11.7	518.6	532.5

¹ Balance sheet estimates. ² Includes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and State outshipments, but excludes interfarm sales within the State. ³ Excludes custom slaughter for farmers at commercial establishments. ⁴ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments. ⁵ Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the State. ⁶ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter. ⁷ Difference between gross income and cash receipts equals value of home consumption. ⁸ Includes allowance for higher average price of State inshipments and outshipments of feeder pigs. ⁹ Includes new crop lambs.

Source: USDA NASS Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income 2004 Summary, April 28, 2005

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, April 2005 with Comparisons

Item	2004	2005	2005/2004
	<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.7	12.0	102
United States	342.6	344.0	100
Table Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	259	263	102
United States	6,284	6,290	100
Chickens Hatched, April			
United States			
Egg-type	37.5	38.3	102
Broiler	774.6	789.8	102
Hatched thru April			
Egg-type	142.1	152.0	107
Broiler	3,068.9	3,132.9	102

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, May 23, 2005

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, April 2005 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	April 2005 Percent of	
		April 2004	March 2005
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	541.9	94	91
Hogs, head	604.3	104	96
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	536.1	98	90
United States			
Cattle, head	2,560.1	95	94
Calves, head	61.6	87	91
Hogs, head	8,443.8	98	94
Sheep & Lambs, head	220.8	86	79
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,622.3	98	93

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, May 20, 2005

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, April 11-17, 2004 & April 10-16, 2005¹

Region ²	Number of Workers		Wage Rates							
			All Hired Workers		Type of work					
					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Thousands</i>				<i>Dollars per Hour</i>					
Lake	57	55	10.10	9.95	9.20	8.99	9.95	10.05	9.60	9.45
Cornbelt I	44	41	9.74	9.51	9.04	8.84	8.87	9.17	9.00	8.91
Cornbelt II	28	27	9.48	9.38	9.04	8.85	9.03	9.27	9.04	9.06
Northern Plains	31	27	8.95	9.70	8.87	9.33	8.51	9.69	8.73	9.46
Southern Plains	46	55	8.13	9.28	7.50	8.13	7.93	9.15	7.62	8.53
Mountain I	24	24	8.57	8.43	8.14	7.89	8.41	8.49	8.31	8.23
Mountain II	26	20	9.84	8.50	9.66	7.70	8.83	8.41	9.29	8.02
United States	827	746	9.23	9.34	8.47	8.55	8.95	9.23	8.59	8.73

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers.

² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, May 20, 2005

All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economic Class of Farm by Region and 48 States, April 10-16, 2005¹

Region ²	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$249,999	\$250,000-\$499,999	\$500,000-\$999,999	1,000,000+	All Farms
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>						
Northeast	9.41	9.10	8.04	8.85	9.54	10.36	9.55
Appalachian	8.17	9.17	7.61	8.99	8.57	9.81	8.81
Southeast	6.40	9.17 ³	9.45	9.21	8.16	9.44	9.13
Lake	9.06	9.35	9.46	9.12	9.45	10.80	9.95
Cornbelt	9.20	8.10	8.74	8.40	9.19	10.33	9.46
Delta	6.15	7.95	7.20	8.44	6.95	8.23	7.64
No. Plains	7.60	6.84	9.61	9.21	8.49	10.93	9.70
So. Plains	8.22	8.32	8.91	8.82	7.92	10.13	9.28
Mountain	6.78	9.17 ³	7.59	7.42	9.60	9.07	8.67
Pacific	8.62	8.54	9.31	9.22	9.28	9.75	9.60
48 States	8.20	9.12	8.50	8.77	8.76	9.85	9.32

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Regions consist of: Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT. Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV. Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY. Pacific: CA, OR, WA. 48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI. ³ Insufficient data.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, May 20, 2005

Price Reactions After USDA Crop Reports

USDA Report and Price reaction	Corn			
	Day After Report		Week After Report	
	Number of Reports	Average Price Change	Number Reports	Average Price Change
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cents Per Bu</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Cents Per Bu</i>
Crop Production 1985-2004				
Price Increases	39	4.7	50	7.3
No Price Change (NC)	15	NC	1	NC
Price Decreases	46	-5.3	49	-10.2
Total	100		100	
Grain Stocks 1984-2004				
Price Increases	37	5.2	41	8.4
No Price Change (NC)	7	NC	5	NC
Price Decreases	41	-4.7	39	-9.0
Total	85		85	

Source: USDA NASS Price Reactions After USDA Crop Reports, March 2005



USDA-NASS Acreage & Hog Surveys



Acreage and hog inventories, as well as almost all other statistics from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), are based on responses from commodity producers. These reports are the factual information all market participants, including product buyers and commodity market participants, use to make informed decisions in the buying/selling process.

The table above shows the corn price reaction after the *Crop Production* and *Grain Stocks* reports are released. This table confirms that prices remain unchanged or rise as often as they decline after the USDA-NASS reports. The real value in these reports is the concrete information the market has to work with, not rumors or speculation. The greatest benefit of these reports is reduced volatility in the market for both seller and buyer. This reduced volatility, as a result of the factual supply information, can translate into higher market prices for sellers since the buyers risks are reduced.

Only you, as a producer, can ensure that the reports are as accurate as possible by participating in the surveys conducted by USDA-NASS. If called or visited, please take a few minutes to respond.

Mark Harris
Director

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U. S. Department of Agriculture
Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-1069

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